

REMARKS

Claims 7-9 and 12-15 are presently pending in the application.

Claims 1-5, 11, and 16 have been canceled. No new matter has been added by these amendments. Further, since the amendments place the application in condition for allowance, entry after final is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has finally rejected claims 1-3, 5, 6, and 11 (and presumably 16) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,548,210 of Shinyama et al. ("Shinyama") and has finally rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shinyama. However, since these claims have been canceled, the rejections are rendered moot, and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Applicants acknowledge and appreciate the Examiner's allowance of claims 7-9 and 12-15 for the reasons set forth in the Office Action of September 12, 2003. Accordingly, all of the pending claims are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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